

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A method for modulating activation of an NFkB signaling pathway in a cell comprising contacting a cell with a polypeptide agent ~~that modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide~~ in an amount sufficient to modulate the activation of an NFkB signaling pathway, wherein said polypeptide agent comprises the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide, said extracellular domain comprising a TRADE α polypeptide sequence having at least 90% 95% sequence identity identical to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:4, such that activation of an NFkB signaling pathway is modulated.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: an epithelial cell, a ductal epithelial cell, and a bronchial epithelial cell.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide ~~comprising a mature TRADE α polypeptide extracellular domain.~~

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent consists essentially of a said TRADE α polypeptide extracellular domain.

9-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge $-C_{H2}-C_{H3}$ regions of a human immunoglobulin.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of $\gamma 1$, $\gamma 2$, $\gamma 3$, ϵ and α .

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α and Fc sequences.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~is a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising~~ consists essentially of a sequence at least 95% ~~80%~~ identical to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 ~~42~~, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~is a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising~~ comprises ~~a sequence at least 90% identical to~~ amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~is a TRADE α polypeptide sequence comprising~~ comprises at least one of the domains corresponding to amino acids 29-63 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 72-114 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 114-139 of SEQ ID NO:2, or amino acids 137-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a liver cell.
48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a brain cell.
49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a ~~TRADE α polypeptide~~ sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADE β polypeptide comprising a TRADE β polypeptide sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.~~
50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a ~~TRADE α polypeptide~~ sequence comprising the ~~amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.~~
51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide consisting of the ~~amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.~~
52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide results in reduction of NFkB activity.
53. (Currently amended) A method for modulating NFkB activity in a cell comprising contacting a cell with a polypeptide agent comprising a the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide sequence, wherein said extracellular domain is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 1-504 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said polypeptide agent inhibits the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide ~~sequence~~ having at least 90% sequence identity identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADE β polypeptide sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4~~, such that NFkB activity in said cell is modulated.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

58. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent ~~TRADE α polypeptide sequence~~ is a soluble form of a TRADE α polypeptide ~~comprising a mature TRADE polypeptide extracellular domain~~.

59. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 58, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide sequence is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge $-C_{H2}-C_{H3}$ regions of a human immunoglobulin.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of $\gamma 1$, $\gamma 2$, $\gamma 3$, ϵ and α .

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α polypeptide sequences and Fc sequences.

63. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising a ~~TRADE α polypeptide~~ sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or a TRADE β polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4~~.

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide agent modulates the activity of a TRADE α polypeptide comprising ~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a TRADE β polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.~~

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide agent results in reduction of NFkB activity.